



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two Soldiers charged

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BAGHDAD, Iraq - Two Soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 109th Infantry (Mechanized) of the Pennsylvania National Guard have been charged with several violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice in connection with two separate incidents near Forward Operating Base Blue Diamond.

Spec. Nathan B. Lynn was charged with one count of voluntary manslaughter for allegedly shooting an unarmed male Iraqi civilian on February 15 in front of a home where Lynn was pulling security for members of his unit.

Lynn and Sgt. Milton Ortiz, Jr. were each charged with one count of obstructing justice for allegedly conspiring with another Soldier who allegedly placed an AK-47 near the body of the mortally wounded man.

Ortiz was also charged with one count of assault and one count of communicating a threat for a separate incident on March 8 when he allegedly placed an unloaded weapon against the head of an Iraqi male civilian and threatened to send him to prison.

Both Soldiers were transferred to a military base in Baghdad to facilitate their access to defense counsel and preparation for Article 32 hearings to determine if sufficient evidence exists for the cases to be referred to court-martial. Charges are merely an accusation, and an accused is presumed innocent until charges are proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

The Soldier who allegedly placed the weapon near the man's body redeployed and demobilized before criminal proceedings were initiated.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS-IRAQ, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE BY E-MAIL AT MNCI-PAO-VictoryMainJOC@iraq.centcom.mil.

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